

Ploceus pelzelni, Slender-billed Weaver: We identified a pair in a marshy clearing in forest (with coffee undergrowth) near Vila Salazar on 15th October. They were continually searching the foliage and branches of bushes like tits. The only previous records are from Cabinda and Cunga on the lower Cuanza.

Estrilda granatina, Violet-eared Waxbill: It had only been recorded in the southern half of the country. We saw a pair on 9th October in the north of the Quiçama Reserve and two others on 11th October near Funda, all in thorn scrub.

Estrilda paludicola, Fawn-breasted Waxbill: Near a small marsh in grasslands, we saw about 20 on 11th October near Funda. It does not seem to have been previously recorded in the Luanda District.

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The White-headed Barbet in Angola

by R. K. Brooke

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The White-headed Barbet *Lybius leucocephalus leucogaster* (Bocage) was described from Quilenges in Angola. Traylor (1960: *Publ. Cult. Diam. Ang.* 51: 176) knew of two specimens, both ♀♀ taken in January, in addition to the type, all from Quilenges at 900 m. a.s.l. In point of fact Bocage had three specimens before him, two ♂♂ and a ♀, all adult (Dr. A. A. da Rosa Pinto, pers. comm.). Traylor (op. cit) pointed out that all other races of *L. leucocephalus* (Defilippi) were high country forms and that *leucogaster* was peculiar in coming from a fairly low lying area. He gave the wing lengths as 90 and 92 and the culmen lengths as 23 and 25 mm.

The Instituto de Investigaçao Cientifica de Angola at Sa da Bandeira has thirty-three specimens of *L. l. leucogaster*: two mounted and without data and thirty-one study specimens: twelve adult ♂♂, eleven adult ♀♀, one unsexed

adult, five juvenal ♂♂, two juvenal ♀♀. The series is remarkably uniform in measurements and there is no appreciable age or sex dimorphism in these respects.

Wing length in adult ♂♂ 89-96, av. 92.8; adult ♀♀ 88-94, av. 91.6; juvenal ♂♂ 91-94, av. 93.2; juvenal ♀♀ 90, 92 mm.

Culmen length adult ♂♂ 23-25, av. 24.0; adult ♀♀ 22-25, av. 23.8; juvenal ♂♂ 22-24, av. 23.2; juvenal ♀♀ 22, 24 mm.

Weight adult ♂♂ 55-70, av. 63.8; adult ♀♀ 55-65, av. 61.8; juvenal ♂♂ 54-64, av. 62.4; juvenal ♀♀ 58, 69 g.

On most specimens the stomach contents were noted; one empty, one with large seeds, six with insects, twenty with fruit. In most cases, both adult and juvenal, the eye colour is described as either chestnut or dark chestnut but in one juvenal ♀ it is described as grey. Most specimens have been collected in Miombo woodland, often open and degraded, but a few in relict patches of dry montane forest at the top of the Chela escarpment including the specimen discussed by da Rosa Pinto (1962: *Bol. Inst. Invest. Cient. Angola* I: 1: 24-25). All but one of the series studied come from the high south-west of Angola within 25 km. of Sa da Bandeira at altitudes varying from 1840 to 2300 m. The exception is from Bibala in January at 1110 m. at the foot of the escarpment. *L. l. leucogaster* must thus be regarded as a primary highland form like the other races of the species despite the possibility of seasonal movement to lower levels after breeding.

The seven juvenals were taken in the months January to April and during this period show a progressive decline in the number of grey-brown feathers on the crown, nape, chest and flanks, areas which are white in adults. They show no wing moult. During January to April the adults are renewing the outer primaries. Egg laying in September and October seems indicated. The two October specimens are in fairly fresh plumage which may indicate a second wing moult in September, especially as the one August specimen is in worn plumage, but equally they may all three be first year birds who moult their primaries just before breeding.

I am obliged to Dr. da Rosa Pinto for facilities for study at Sa da Bandeira, for permission to discuss this form and the gift of a mounted specimen; also to M. P. Stuart Irwin for the loan of an adult and a juvenal from near Sa da Bandeira collected by the IICA and now in the National Museum of Rhodesia. Their measurements have not been included in the figures above even though the adult ♀ extends the weight range to 70 g.

Four descriptions of nesting, previously undescribed, from Ethiopia

by Emil K. Urban, L. H. Brown, C. E. Buer and G. D. Plage

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In the preparation of a checklist of the birds of Ethiopia (Urban & Brown, in press) nestings of four African species (including two endemics to Ethiopia), hitherto not described (Mackworth-Praed & Grant, 1957, 1960), have been found; they are as follows:

Vanellus melanocephalus, Spot-breasted Plover: On 25th April, 1970, C.E.B. discovered the nest on a meter-square rock island in a shallow pool (20 cm./50 cm.) in a moorland with small lakes and giant lobelia, about 15 km. west